

Amendments to the Specification

Change page 1, lines 1-2, as follows:

APPARATUS ~~AND METHOD~~ FOR PRODUCING MATURED COMPOST-LIKE MATERIAL

Change page 1, lines 10-13, as follows:

[0002] The present invention relates to an apparatus ~~and method~~ for producing an odorless product like matured compost in a short period of time from organic waste such as biologically treated sludge and animal droppings.

Change page 8, lines 11 to 22, as follows:

[0023] (1) An apparatus for producing matured compost-like material of the first aspect comprises a vertical vessel which is provided at an upper side thereof with an inlet for organic waste as material to be treated and provided at a lower side thereof with an outlet for the material treated with heat, heating panel(s) for heating the material which is disposed to be in contact with the material within the vessel, and moving means for moving the material within the vessel from the inlet toward the outlet, wherein ~~and is characterized in that~~ the organic waste fed through the inlet is continuously heated and dried and is further treated with heat at temperature of 100-200°C.

Change page 10, lines 9 to 21, as follows:

[0029] (2) An apparatus for producing matured compost-like material of the second aspect comprises a vessel which is provided with an inlet for organic waste and with an outlet for the material treated with heat, and a heating means for heating and drying the material within the vessel and further treating the material with heat at temperature of 100-200°C, wherein ~~and is characterized in that~~ the organic waste is continuously fed through the inlet and the material

treated with heat is continuously discharged through said outlet, and ~~that~~ a temperature detector is arranged in the vicinity of the outlet and a temperature controlling means is provided for controlling such that the temperature measured by the temperature detector becomes a predetermined value.

Change page 11, lines 21 to 27, as follows:

[0032] (3) A method of producing matured compost-like material of the third aspect is a method of producing matured compost-like material by treating organic waste with heat after heating and drying the organic waste, wherein ~~and is characterized in that~~ the heating and drying process is conducted after polymer is added to and mixed with the organic waste and, then, the heat treatment is conducted.

Change page 12, line 16 to page 13, line 10, as follows:

[0035] The ~~Since the~~ matured compost-like material produced according to the method of the third aspect has excellent handling property without problems of deterioration of the working environment due to dust and decrease in yield due to scattering because the matured compost-like material is granular.

[0036] (4) A method of producing matured compost-like material of the fourth aspect is a method of producing matured compost-like material by treating organic waste with heat after heating and drying the organic waste, wherein ~~and is characterized in that~~ the heating and drying process is conducted after potassium component is added to and mixed with the organic waste and, then, the heat treatment is conducted.

[0037] According to this method, potassium component, in which must be insufficient in matured compost-like material is insufficient, is previously added to and mixed with organic waste as the raw material, thereby obtaining matured compost-like material which

contains nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium as fertilizer active elements in a balanced manner. Therefore, it is not required to add another chemical fertilizer containing potassium when the matured compost-like material is used as organic fertilizer, thereby significantly reducing labor hour for manuring.